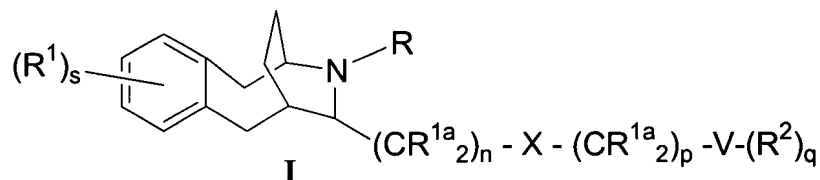


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A compound of Formula I



wherein

R is H,

R<sup>1a</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, and
- 3) OR<sup>4</sup>;

R<sup>1b</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H, and
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

X is selected from

- 1) a bond,
- 2) C(O), and
- 3) O,

R<sup>1</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) halo,
- 3) OR<sup>4</sup>,
- 4) NO<sub>2</sub>,
- 5) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl,
- 6) -C(O)R<sup>4</sup>,
- 7) C(O)OR<sup>4</sup>,

8)  $C(O)N(R^4)_2$ ,9)  $N(R^4)_2$ ;

V is selected from ~~aryl~~-phenyl, benzofuran, benzodioxo and oxazolo;

R<sup>2</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl,
- 3)  $-(CR^{1b})_tOR^4$ ,
- 4) Halo,
- 5) CN,
- 6) NO<sub>2</sub>,
- 7) CF<sub>3</sub>,
- 8)  $-(CR^{1b})_tN(R^4)_2$ ,
- 9)  $-C(O)OR^4$ ,
- 10)  $-C(O)R^4$ ,
- 11)  $-(CR^{1b})_tNR^4(CR^{1b})_tR^5$ ,
- 12)  $-(CR^{1b})_tS(O)_mNR^4$ ,
- 13)  $-C(O)OR^4R^5$ ,
- 14)  $-NR^4C(O)R^4$ ,

R<sup>4</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl,
- 3) C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl,
- 4) aryl,
- 5) ~~heterocycle~~, and
- 6) CF<sub>3</sub>;

R<sup>5</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) aryl, and
- 2) heterocycle;

m is independently 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0 to 4;

p is 0 to 4;

q is 1 to 4;

s is 0 to 16; and

t is independently 0 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R, R<sup>1b</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, V and variables m, n, p, q and t are as defined in Claim 1 and

R<sup>1a</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H, and
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

X is selected from

- 1) a bond, and
- 2) C(O);

R<sup>1</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) halo,
- 3) OR<sup>4</sup>,
- 4) N(R<sup>4</sup>)<sub>2</sub>,
- 5) NO<sub>2</sub>, and

R<sup>2</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H,
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, and
- 3) Halo,

s is 0 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

3. (Currently amended) The compound according to Claim 1 and 2 wherein R, R<sup>1b</sup>, X, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and variables m and t are as defined ~~above~~ in Claim 2 and:

R<sup>1a</sup> is independently selected from

- 1) H, and
- 2) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

V is phenyl;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 to 3;

q is 1 to 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

4. (Original) A compound that is:

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-benzyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-benzyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-benzyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-benzyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)  
benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)  
benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)  
benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)

benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-4-amine;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-4-amine;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-4-amine;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-4-amine;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-1-amine;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-1-amine;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-1-amine;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(3-bromobenzyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulen-1-amine;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(1-benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(1-benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(1-benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(1-benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-(1,3-oxazol-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-(1,3-oxazol-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-(1,3-oxazol-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-(1,3-oxazol-2-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo[*a*][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-isopentyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-isopentyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*S*)-11-isopentyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-isopentyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

5. (Original) A compound according to Claim 4 that is:

(6*R*,9*S*,11*R*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*R*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*R*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

(6*S*,9*R*,11*S*)-11-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-6,9-(epiminomethano)benzo [a][8]annulene;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

6-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition which is comprised of a compound in accordance with Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.